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EXCALIBUR™

SPECIAL



"THE
POSSESSION"

Stan Lee presents

EXCALIBUR™



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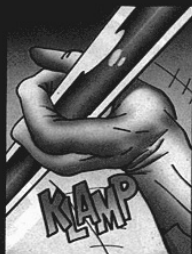
THE BASEMENT
OF EXCALIBUR'S
LIGHTHOUSE
HEADQUARTERS...

OH MY,
NIGHTCRAWLER!

The CHANGELING

MICHAEL HIGGINS TOM MORGAN PAUL MOUNTS KELLY CORRYSE TERRY KRYANAGH TOM DE FALCO
Writer/Letterer Artist Color Artist Assistant Editor Editor Biggie-Editor

EXCALIBUR CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT AND ALAN DAVIS





NOR I, YOU, MEGGAN.

AND, THOUGH I HOPE IT DOESN'T REFLECT ANY FEELINGS OF YOUR OWN INADEQUACY-- I'LL ADMIT I FIND YOU MOST ATTRACTIVE IN YOUR CURRENT FORM.

MEGGAN...

KURT...

OH!

I--

CLAP CLAP CLAP

EXCELLENT!

CAPTAIN BRITAIN!

BRIAN!

WE DIDN'T SEE YOU!

WINNING



I'M SURE IT DID!

NOW...
IF YOU'LL
EXCUSE
ME...

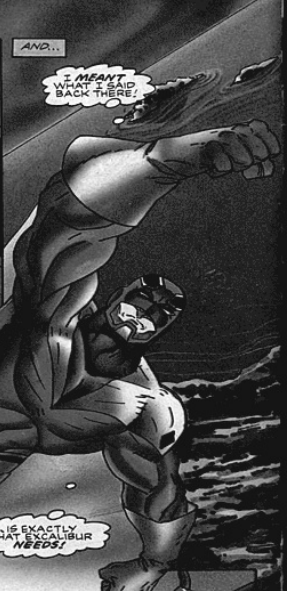


HMMMM...



AND...

I MEANT
WHAT I SAID
BACK THERE!



THEY *DID*
LOOK GOOD
TOGETHER.

WHAT
THEY WERE
DOING...

...IS EXACTLY
WHAT EXCALIBUR
NEEDS!

"I JUST DON'T HAVE TO LIKE IT!"

WOULD
YOU PLEASE
EXCUSE
ME...?

I'M
NOT
FEELING
VERY
WELL.



HMMMPH!





I'M NOT
SURE I'M
GOING
TO--

UNNGH!



GOT--

GOT
TO--

GRAB
ON TO...



...SOMETHING--!



EH!?!
WHAT?!



MUST...TELEPORT...



BAMM



CAN'T TAKE
MANY MORE
BLOWS
LIKE--



UNH!

--THAT!

INCREDIBLE! THE CREATURE
IS FAST--

BAMF

BAMF

--AND
ALMOST
GRACEFUL--
FOR ONE OF
SUCH GREAT
BULK!

NO MATTER
WHERE I
TELEPORT...

--IT
IS ALREADY
TH--

BAMF

URGHHKE

PLAM

NO...

NO!

N-NOT YOU!

KRBBBANN PMMM

NOT YET!

AND...

AT LEAST I CAN
ADMIT IT TO MYSELF!
I'M STILL A LITTLE
UNCOMFORTABLE
WHEN I SEE THE TWO
OF THEM TOGETHER.

I KNOW *NOTHING* IS
HAPPENING BETWEEN
THEM...

BUT, STILL--

HEY!

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING TO MY
LIGHTHOUSE?!

BAM



SORRY,
UGLY--

--BUT
YOUR FINE
RIDE HAS JUST
COME TO AN
END!

YOU MEAN--

--YOU
WANT TO TRY
AGAIN?!

YEP--
THIS SUPER
HERO STUFF IS
NOTHING BUT
FUN AND
GAMES ALL
DAY LONG!

KRAKT

NOW
THAT
REALLY
MAKES ME
MAD!

KLOMP



DON'T WORRY, CAPTAIN,
PHOENIX IS HERE!

NOT TO MENTION
SHADOWCAT!

TAKE IT
EASY, GIRLS...



... THE FIGHT IS OVER!

THEN I'LL JUST
TELEKINETICALLY
TAKE CARE OF
OUR LITTLE
"VENTILATION"
PROBLEM!

AND
WHY DON'T YOU
CHECK ON THE
OTHERS, KITTY!



I KNOW LOCKNEED AND WIDGET
WENT OUT TO "PLAY" EARLIER, BUT
MEGGAN AND NIGHTCRAWLER SHOULD
BE IN THE BASEMENT GYM.

AND I'LL BE
THERE AS FAST
AS I CAN *PHASE*
THROUGH THIS
FLOOR!

THAT OUGHT TO
DO IT FOR THE
**INTERIOR
DECORATING!**



HEY,
CAP! HOW ABOUT
A HAND WITH
KURT? HE'S PRETTY
BEATEN UP.

—BARELY
CONSCIOUS!



3URPKT2

GEE...
THANKS,
KITTY!

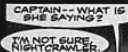
I'M AFRAID
WE'VE GOT BIGGER
PROBLEMS THAN
THAT!

MEGGAN
HAS **VANISHED**
WITHOUT
TRACE!



PERHAPS.





"--PERHAPS HE AND THE
**WEIRD HAPPENINGS
ORGANIZATION** WILL
BE ABLE TO HELP!"

YOU'VE GOT TO BE
KIDDING!

YOU DON'T
REMEMBER THAT
**CRAZY OLD
MAN?**

HOW CAN
YOU FORGET
SOMEONE LIKE
THAT?

NOT
ONLY DID
YOU THINK HE
**LOOKED LIKE
A WACKO--**

--YOU
THOUGHT
HE **TALKED**
LIKE ONE!

HE WARNED US THAT ALL SORTS OF
UNUSUAL THINGS WOULD START
HAPPENING RIGHT ABOUT NOW--

--ONLY HE
TOLD US
MONTHS
AGO!

THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD HAVE
KNOWN...UNLESS...

WELL, HE MIGHT
BE ABLE TO HELP
US, THAT'S
ALL!

YEAH, YEAH. YOU SAY THIS MEGGAN IS POSSESSED.

I DON'T **BELIEVE** IN THAT KIND OF
STUFF. NO ONE **DOES**, ANYMORE,
AT LEAST.

THIS IS
ALL JUST
A PRODUCT OF
YOUR **OVER-
ACTIVE
IMAGINATION!**

NO NEED TO GO
FLYING OFF THE
HANDLE. JUST BE-
CAUSE ONE OF YOUR
GIRLFRIENDS GETS
HERSELF IN
TROUBLE!

BUT I'VE
SEEN HER--AND
DOZENS OF
OTHER THINGS
THAT **MOST**
PEOPLE DON'T
BELIEVE IN
EITHER!

BESIDES, I TOOK
THE LIBERTY OF HAVING
SOME READINGS TAKEN
IN THE AREA **SURROUND-
ING** THE OLD MAN'S
CASTLE.

THEY DEFY
DESCRIPTION!

I AM
CONVINCED THAT
WHAT IS HAPPENING
THERE IS DIRECTLY
RELATED TO WHAT'S
HAPPENING WITH
MEGGAN!



"...IT LOOKS LIKE
WE'RE GOING TO
HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF
THIS ONE OURSELVES."

--SO HE SAID--

--AND I
KNOW ONLY
ONE WAY TO FIND
OUT!

WOW!
WHAT A
PLACE!

THE
OLD GUY
LIVES
HERE?

NOK

NOK
NOK

I ONLY PRAY HE IS ABLE TO
HELP US! DESPITE THE PSI-LINK
I'VE ESTABLISHED WITH
MEGGAN--"

--THE STRAIN OF KEEPING
HER UNDER CONTROL IS ALMOST
MORE THAN I CAN BEAR!

AND...SOMETHING
STRANGE HAS BEEN
HAPPENING EVER SINCE
WE ARRIVED HERE--
APPARENTLY THE
SITE OF SOME
SORT OF
NEXUS!

I HAVE REACHED
DEEPER WITHIN
MEGGAN--

--AND I AM FINALLY SUCCEEDING IN ESTABLISHING
CONTACT WITH MEGGAN'S OWN WILL--

--MEGGAN'S OWN
PERSONALITY!
IT SEEMS TO
BE GROWING
STRONGER--

--FIGHTING
TO SURVIVE
AND WIN OUT
WHATEVER DEMON IS
POSSESSING HER!

LOOK!
THE CASTLE
DOORS!

THEY'RE
SWINGING
OPEN--ALL BY
THEMSELVES!



WHATEVER IT IS,
I THINK WE CAN SAFELY ASSUME
IT IS *NOT* OF THIS WORLD.

THE EVIL TAKES ON A PHYSICAL MANIFESTATION--



---POSSIBLY DUE TO THE WEAKENING
OF ITS HOLD UPON MEGGAN!

THERE SEEMS TO
BE SOME SORT OF *FOCUS*
TO ALL THIS.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN,
PHOENIX?

I GENSE SOMETHING--



---SOMETHING *FAMILIAR*. IT'S ALMOST
AS IF IT'S SOMETHING--SOMEONE I KNOW--

--AND KNOW QUITE WELL!

AARRRGH!

APSI-BLAST!

OMIGOD,
THE PAIN!

M-MEGGAN--
LOSING
CONTROL!

DON'T WORRY, PHOENIX!

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF--

UNNGGCH!!!

UNNGGCH!!!



WHAT ABOUT *US*?
WHAT DO *WE* DO?

SHE'S GETTING AWAY!



!!--YOU GET BACK THERE AND SEE HOW PHOENIX IS!

STILL DON'T KNOW *WHO* YOU ARE--



-- BUT YOU'RE
NOT GOING TO GET THE
BETTER OF PHOENIX!

YOU WILL
BE GONE!

BEGONE!



WHEW! LOOKS LIKE I GOT
HERE JUST IN TIME!

BEGONE.



ARE YOU
GOING TO BE ALL
RIGHT, RACHEL?



Y-YES. I... I'LL BE FINE.

DON'T WANT THE
OTHERS TO KNOW
JUST HOW OUT OF
IT I REALLY FEEL!

LET'S JUST SEE WHAT THE OLD MAN HAS
TO SAY THAT MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP:

NOT MUCH, I'M AFRAID.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?

I BELIEVE MY NAME IS MYRD.

BEYOND THAT
I SEEM TO RECALL
VERY LITTLE...

"...SAVE THAT A **PROFANE**
MALEVOLENCE HAS BEEN
LOOSED O'er THE FACE OF
THE EARTH--"

"---A **THREAT**
THAT MUST BE
DRIVEN OUT--"

"--LEST WE ALL PERISH!"

AND...

THE *EVIL* SEEMS
TO HAVE TAKEN EVEN
STRONGER CONTROL
OVER MEGGAN!

--IF WE ARE
UNABLE TO
CURE HER--

IF I DO
NOT *FIND* HER--

--I WILL
NEVER *FORGIVE*
MYSELF!

MEGGAN AND I--

--WE HAVE GROWN SO
CLOSE!

I CAN
NO LONGER
IMAGINE *MY*
LIFE--

"--WITHOUT *HER!*"



WHILE...

MEGGAN!

I'VE GOT TO
FIND HER--

--GOT TO
FIND HER!



I DON'T WANT TO LOSE HER!

NOT NOW--



--NOT EVER!



FUNNY THING IS--
UNTIL NOW...

...I NEVER
REALIZED JUST HOW
TRUE THAT IS!



UP AHEAD--!

NO!

THAT *CAN'T*
BE MEGGAN!

BUT IT IS!

CRAZED... ...DANCING...?

...AS IF IT WERE SOME SORT
OF PAGAN RITUAL!

SHE KNOWS
SOMEONE IS
WATCHING!

GOT TO ACT--

NOW!

EH?

EH?

CAPTAIN BRITAIN--?!

NIGHTCRAWLER--?!

SHE...

SHE'S
GONE!

EVAPORATED
INTO THE SPECTRAL
BLOOM!

WHAT DO
WE DO NOW, MEIN
FREUND?

INDEED, MY FRIEND...

...WHAT
DO WE DO NOW?

SHORTLY...

THERE
IT IS--

BRADDOCK MANOR!

I PRESUME
NIGHTCRAWLER AND
OUR "GUEST" ARE
NEARBY AS
WELL!

VOILA!
AS IF ON
CUE!

IT'S BEEN TOO LONG SINCE
I'VE BEEN HOME--

--AND I ONLY
WISH IT WERE UNDER
A MORE PLEASANT
SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES!

THINGS WERE SURELY
DIFFERENT BACK WHEN
MEGGAN AND I WERE
LIVING HERE--

KLANKLANK

HAS BEEN IN THE CAPTAIN BRITAIN TRADE PAPERBACK.

--BACK BEFORE EXCALIBUR
WAS FORMED!

IN MANY WAYS
I WISH THINGS HAD
STAYED THAT WAY!

MY SISTER BETSY
WAS STILL ALIVE...

...AND MEGGAN AND I--

I-I DON'T
BELIEVE MY
EYES!

IT'S THE LORD OF THE MANOR
HIMSELF, IT IS!

AND I'LL
BE ASKING...
HOW IS M--?

WE'LL HAVE TO TALK LATER,
EMMA.

MY... FRIENDS AND
I HAVE TO GET RIGHT
TO WORK!



OH!



SOMETHING... VERY...
WROTE

PHOENIX!



WELL, ONE THING I CAN
SEE IS THAT THIS YOUNG
LADY NEEDS TO **REST**
FOR A BIT--

--HAVE
A CUP OF
TEA!

I'M JUST FINE.



NO, YOU'RE **NOT**--AND YOU KNOW IT!



REALLY, RACHE...

...I THINK
IT WOULD BE A
GOOD IDEA.

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE!

WHY DON'T YOU GO WITH THEM,
OLD-TIMER?



I DO NOT THINK THAT WOULD BE WISE.

I AM
CERTAIN
I CAN BE OF
SOME
HELP.

HMMM.

ALL
RIGHT, JUST
DON'T GET IN
THE WAY.





CAPTAIN!

WHAT IS ALL THIS?

WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

THE CAVERN COMPUTER-- WAS CREATED BY MY FATHER!

I HAD NO IDEA!

WHY, I'D SWEAR THIS TECHNOLOGY EXCEEDS ANYTHING EARTH IS CAPABLE OF. IT'S BEYOND BELIEF!

VERY PERCEPTIVE, KITTY...

... BUT THAT'S A STORY FOR SOME OTHER TIME.

WE'VE GOT TO KEEP OUR PRIORITIES IN ORDER.

UNFORTUNATELY...

... THE COMPUTER CAN'T SEEM TO LOCATE MEGGAN...

... BUT IT IS DETECTING POWER SURGES BEYOND THE REALM OF NATURAL SCIENCES! POWER SURGES ORIGINATING AT--

--YOUR CASTLE!

AND THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE-- ACCORDING TO THE COMPUTER, THERE HAVEN'T EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE A CASTLE AT THAT LOCATION.

HOW ABOUT IT, OLD MAN-- WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?

I TRULY AM SORRY, BUT AS I HAVE PREVIOUSLY STATED--

--I CANNOT REMEMBER ANYTHING THAT HAS TRANSPIRED!

THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH!

TAKE IT EASY, CAPTAIN.
I'M SURE MYRD WOULD
HEAD LIE IF HE
COULD!

MYRD!
IT CAN'T BE

SHE
IS CORRECT,
FRIEND!

I AM HERE
IN THE SERVICE
OF YOUR
CAUSE--

--AND I HOPE YOU WILL
BELIEVE I SPEAK THE
TRUTH WHEN I SAY--

--I CAN
LEAD YOU
TO MEGGAN!

JUST WHAT IS THIS? HOW CAN
WE SIMPLY ACCEPT--??

CAPTAIN BRITAIN, LET ME REMIND
YOU OF YOUR OWN WORDS ABOUT
OUR PRIORITIES

THERE IS PRECIOUS
LITTLE TIME TO WASTE
--AND WE HAVE NOTHING TO
LOSE BY LISTENING TO
THE OLD MAN!

ALL RIGHT! WE MIGHT AS WELL
CHECK IT OUT--

--BUT WHEN
THIS IS OVER, I WANT
A FEW ANSWERS!

MINUTES LATER...

WHAT DO WE
DO? MEGGAN--THE
DEMON--EASILY
ELUDED BOTH OF
US EARLIER.

I AM
WELL
AWARE.

IF YOU'RE
FEELING UP TO IT, PHOENIX,
YOU'RE THE **BEST** CHANCE
WE'VE GOT!

INDEED...
AND SOMETHING
IS **DIFFERENT**
THIS TIME!

I CAN MORE
EFFORTLESSLY CONTROL
MEGGAN!

THE
PSYCHIC
PRESENCE I
ENCOUNTERED
EARLIER IS
NO LONGER
A THREAT!

BUT HOW IS THAT **POSSIBLE** WHEN MEGGAN IS STILL POSSESSED?

I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN
WE'D HAVE SOMETHING TO
DO WITH THIS!

YOU ARE
CORRECT, MY
CAPTAIN...

... BUT WHAT **MY ROLE** IN THIS IS, I CANNOT SAY.

STILL, YOU MUST **TRUST** ME--LAY ASIDE
YOUR **QUESTIONS**...YOUR **DOUBTS**.

I CAN HELP TO **SUPPRESS** THE
EVIL WITHIN MEGGAN...

... THOUGH I AM NOT
CERTAIN FOR **HOW**
LONG!

BACK AT BRADDOCK MANOR, SECONDS BECOME MINUTES...

...AND MINUTES
BECOME HOURS--

LONE HOURS, AS
EXCALIBUR, AIDED BY
THE MYSTERIOUS
MYED, LABOR TIRE-
LESSLY, CEASELESSLY
IN THEIR EFFORTS TO
FREE MEGGAN OF
THE DEMONS THAT
CONSUME HER.

STILL, WHEN ALL
ANALYSIS IS
COMPLETED--

WE'VE FAILED!

NO! WE MUSTN'T GIVE
UP HOPE!

NIGHTCRAWLER IS CORRECT, AS I
AM SURE YOU ARE ACTUALLY QUITE
WELL AWARE, CAPTAIN BRITAIN.

SCIENCE HAS NOT SERVED OUR
NEEDS! WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO
CAST OUT THE HORROR!

NOW WE MUST
RESORT TO MYSTIC
MEANS!

WE WILL CONFRONT THE SPIRITS DIRECTLY.

"WE MUST RETURN
TO THE CASTLE--THE
NEXUS--AT ONCE..."

"...AND, WITHOUT
FURTHER DELAY,
WE MUST CONDUCT
A SEANCE--"

"--AN ATTEMPT TO
COMMUNICATE
WITH THE SPIRIT
REALM--THE
PSYCHIC PLANE!"

THERE
ARE SOME
THINGS MAN
WAS NOT MEANT
TO UNDERSTAND.

TOO MUCH HAS ALREADY BEEN DIVILEED--
AND THE BATTLE HAS NOT YET BEGUN!

I STILL DON'T
UNDERSTAND THIS.
HOW CAN YOU KNOW
SO MUCH--AND YET,
SO LITTLE?!

NOW WE
MUST ALL JOIN OUR MINDS AS ONE--
JUST AS WE JOIN HAVENS, PHOENIX AND I BEING
ESPECIALLY CAREFUL NOT TO WEAKEN THE LINK...

LEST THAT WHICH
DOES NOT BELONG
IN THIS REALITY NEVER
BE EXPELLED!

AND WHY
SHOULD WE ACCEPT YOUR
JUDGMENT OF WHAT MUST
BE EXPELLED?

I AM ONE WHO SEES.

OBSERVE YOUR FRIEND
--NIGHTCRAWLER-- TO
SOME, HE WOULD
APPEAR A DEMON.

WE KNOW BETTER.

TO SOME OF
US--TRUTH IS
EVIDENT!

TO OTHERS, THE
TRUTH SHALL
NEVER BE MADE
CLEAR!

I UNDERSTAND YOUR RESERVACTIONS,
CAPTAIN, BUT THIS **MUST BE DONE.**

--AND IT
MUST BE DONE
AT ONCE!

SOMETHING
IS HAPPENING--
IT'S GETTING HARDER
AND HARDER TO
CONTROL MEGGAN!

YES, I,
TOO FEEL THE
STRAIN--

--AS WELL
AS THE ARRIVAL OF
A SPIRIT FROM
BEYOND!

SPEAK TO US,
WHO ARE YOU?

MY NAME IS...

MY NAME WAS
MICKY...

HE'S SPEAKING
THROUGH
ALISTAIR!

THE OTHERS
HAVE NO REASON TO KNOW
WHO I AM...

... BUT *YOU* HAVEN'T
FORGOTTEN ME HAVE YOU,
CAPTAIN BRITAIN?

BY GOD I SURELY *YOU* HAVE NOT
BROUGHT THIS HORROR UPON US.

NO, CAPTAIN BRITAIN.
I AM NOT HERE AS AN
ENEMY, BUT,
RATHER AS A
FRIEND--

--AS ONE OF THE
MEDIUMS YOU
WILL ENCOUNTER
IN THIS *QUEST*!

ONE OF THE--?

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?

TELL US
WHAT YOU
MEAN!

NO, MICKY.
I'LL NEVER BE
ABLE TO FORGET
THAT DAY.

YOUR
DEATH--A DEATH
I WAS RESPONSIBLE
FOR --HAS HAUNTED
ME FOR MANY MONTHS
BUT I THOUGHT THE
WORST OF IT WAS
BEHIND ME.

HE IS
GONE.

BUT
ANOTHER IMAGE IS
FORMING.

CAN HE
BE RESPONSIBLE
FOR--?

MEY! HOW CAN YOU EVEN *THINK* SUCH A THING?
JACKAW!!

IN THE
FILE--

POST-7-15

WELL... YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!

IT'S SO GOOD
TO SEE YOU AGAIN,
OLD FRIEND.

I DIDN'T
THINK THAT WOULD
HAPPEN
AGAIN...

...AS LONG
AS I...
LIVED.

TAKE IT EASY, CAPPY!

NO REASON TO FEEL
UNCOMFORTABLE--

--JUST
BECAUSE I'M
DEAD!

--AND I'M GOING
TO...

BUT FIRST WE MUST BE
JOINED BY ANOTHER--**ONE**
WHO WILL HELP TO KEEP
OPEN THE **DOORWAY**
TO BEYOND!

I CAN
STILL HELP
YOU--



OH, COME ON!
ENOUGH IS
ENOUGH!

DIDN'T I SEE
ALL THIS IN
DYKENS?

--OR WAS IT
DARK SHADOWS?

THIS CAN'T
BE REAL--IT
CAN'T BE!



WE'RE HERE TO
HELP A FRIEND

I DON'T
WANT TO "MEET"
ANYONE
ELSE!
I AM
YOU
CERTAIN,
SHADOWCAT?

PERHAPS OUR NEXT
VISITOR WILL CHANGE
YOUR MIND.



NO! NO!
NOT ONE OF THE
X-MEN!



X-MEN...?

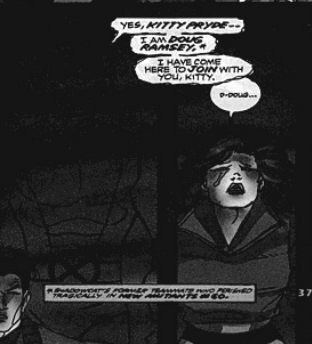


THIS ISN'T HAPPENING! I REFUSE TO ACCEPT IT!
BABY, KITTEN. I KNOW HOW DIFFICULT
THIS WILL BE FOR YOU, BUT I SENSE THAT
WHAT IS HAPPENING IS GENUINE!



YOU MEAN
--GASPS--

--YOU
MEAN--?



YES, KITTY PRYDE--
I AM DOUG
RAMSEY.*

I HAVE COME
HERE TO JOIN WITH
YOU, KITTY.

O-DOUG...



WE MUST BECOME THE KEY
BETWEEN WORLDS--

--WHILE
OTHERS ARE
CALLED UPON TO
DO BATTLE

BATTLE...
PUNCH--??

* SHADOWCAT'S FORMER TEAMMATE WHO PERISHED
TRAGICALLY IN NEW ADVENTURES #160.



ENOUGH!

PROFESSOR X!

I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT... BUT THAT WAS WHO I SENGED EARLIER AT THE CASTLE--

--WHO I SUSPECTED ALL ALONG!



THAT KNOWLEDGE WILL BE OF NO USE!

THIS...

...IS NOT PROFESSOR XAVIER!



YES, YES, I "SEE" THAT NOW...

...AND I RECALL THAT THERE WAS ONE TO WHOM THE PROFESSOR ONCE UNPARTED SOME OF HIS MENTAL ABILITIES!

YOU ARE WRONG--

--CHANGELING!!*

WE SHALL SEE WHO IS MISTAKEN, CHILD!

YOU HAVE ALREADY MADE YOUR FIRST MISTAKE, DEMON--

--BY ALLOWING OUR SPIRITS TO MERGE!

THIS LINK WILL PREVENT YOUR CLOSING THE DOORWAY BEHIND YOU IN YOUR ATTEMPT TO PERMANENTLY OCCUPY THE BODY OF ANOTHER!

PAST? YOU GUYS ARE COMING WITH ME!

THE CHANGELING? WHY, HE REPLACED PROFESSOR X, AS LEADER OF THE X-MEN FOR A PERIOD OF TIME.

*LAST SEEN IN X-MEN #269.

WE REFORMED
IN THE FINAL MONTHS
OF HIS LIFE--

--GAVE
UP THE WAYS OF
EVIL!

WHY WOULD **HE**--
EVEN IN DEATH-- BE
DOING SOMETHING LIKE
THIS?!

WHY?!

WHY?!

ARE YOU
ALL SO **BLIND**
THE ANSWER IS
OBVIOUS!

REVENGE!!!

INSTEAD OF
SPENDING THE **MINIMAL**
MONTHS OF MY LIFE SEARCHING
FOR A WAY TO CURE **MYSELF**, I
POSED AS THE X-MEN'S MENTOR
ENABLING PROFESSOR X TO
ACCOMPLISH **HIS** GOALS,
WHILE I...

I WAS
LEFT TO **ROT** IN MY
GRAVE!

I WANT
REVENGE AGAINST THE
MAN WHO LIVED...

...WHILE I
WAS FORCED TO
DIE!

THEN WHY HAVE YOU ATTACKED **US**?!

I CARE **NOTHING** ABOUT YOU!

I MERELY SOUGHT
THE PERFECT CORPORAL
CONDUIT THROUGH WHICH I
MIGHT REENTER THIS WORLD
AND SEEK OUT THE ONE
I WOULD **DESTROY!**

I WOULD ALREADY
BE ABOUT THAT BUSINESS
IF **MEGAMANS** WILL HAD
NOT PROVEN SO
FORMIDABLE!

SHE WOULD NOT
BE **IMMEDIATELY**
EXPULSED.

BUT I ASSURE
YOU THAT **WILL** END
IN TIME, AND TIME IS
CERTAINLY ON
MY SIDE.

"NOTHING IS GOING TO STOP ME!"

WH-WHERE ARE
WE?

I HAVE
BROUGHT YOUR
PSYCHIC SELVES INTO
THE WORLD BETWEEN
THE LIVING AND
THE DEAD...



...AND I CAN GO NO
FURTHER--YOU MUST CONTINUE
ON YOUR OWN!

BUT, JACKDAW--!



JACKDAW--I!

HE IS
ALREADY GONE,
CAPTAIN.



BUT I AM HERE, YOU
MEDDLING FOOLS--



--AND I POSSESS
POWER BEYOND YOUR
COMPREHENSION!



THAT'S
SUNGHE
WHAT
THEY ALL
SAY!



I JUST NEVER BELIEVE IT!

HA HA HA!





BOTH OF YOU
ARE QUITE GOOD,
ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE
UNTRAINED IN
PSYCHIC BATTLE!

UNTRAINED INDEED.
DO NOT EVEN KNOW HOW I
CAUSED THIS SWORD TO FORM.



BUT I AM SURELY GOING
TO USE IT!
HA HA HA!



EXCELLENT, NIGHTCRAWLER,
BUT I ASSURE YOU...



--IT IS TO NO
AVAIL!



MEGGAN IS, AT LONG LAST, LOSING
THE BATTLE!

I FEEL HER LIFE
FORCES SLIPPING
AWAY!

THE
MOMENT HAS
COME.

YES...

...IT HAS!



FOR MEGGAN!

A black and white comic book panel showing Captain Britain and Nightcrawler in a psychic battle. Captain Britain, a muscular man in a helmet and armor, is on the left, reaching out with his hand. Nightcrawler, a mutant with blue skin and pointed ears, is on the right, leaping forward. They are surrounded by swirling energy and lightning bolts. A speech bubble from Captain Britain says "FOR MEGGAN!". A text box on the right says "AND ACTING UPON NOTHING BUT THE RESOLVE OF THEIR SOULS--". Another text box below it says "--CAPTAIN BRITAIN AND NIGHTCRAWLER PERFORM AS ONE -- STRIKING A PSYCHIC BLOW--". A curved arrow points from the bottom left towards the characters.

AND ACTING UPON
NOTHING BUT THE
RESOLVE OF THEIR
SOULS--

--CAPTAIN BRITAIN
AND NIGHTCRAWLER
PERFORM AS ONE
-- STRIKING A
PSYCHIC BLOW--

--THE REPERCUSSIONS
OF WHICH ARE FELT IN
THE WORLD BEYOND.

NOW!



A large, close-up panel of a character's face, likely the villain. The character has long, dark hair and a very intense, angry expression. The lighting is dramatic, with deep shadows and bright highlights on the face.



HOW DO WE
KNOW ~~WE'RE~~ NOT KILLING
MEGGAN?!

TRUST ME!
THIS IS THE ONLY
WAY!



HE'S
TELLING THE TRUTH,
RACHE!



"IT'S COMING TO AN END!"

THIS IS--

--IMPOSSIBLE!



HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS CAN SHE TAKE?

LITTLE MORE WILL BE NECESSARY.



YES, I CAN FEEL IT, TOO!

IT'S TIME FOR US TO *PART*, ISN'T IT, DADDY?

I AM SORRY, MY KITTEN.

PERHAPS WE SHALL MEET AGAIN SOME DAY.



NO, AFTER ALL THIS TIME...THIS MUST NOT HAPPEN.



YEAARGH!

IT'S OVER... HE'S--



WOLFEHARTMAN.COM
WOLFEHARTMAN.COM

--GONE!

THEN WE HAVE SUCCEEDED--

AND
OUR SPIRITS
HAVE RETURNED
TO OUR--

MEGGAN!!!

ARE YOU--?!

IS SHE--?!



Whoah!





THE GATEWAY IS CLOSED.

AND JUST AS ORDER IS RESTORED...

...SO, TOO, IS MERLIN!



AND, THANKFULLY, NEGGAN, AS WELL!

WHAT HAPPENED?

IT'S A LONG-DOING STORY...

BUT WE'LL BE GLAD TO FILL YOU IN!

ON SECOND THOUGHT, IT CAN WAIT 'TILL LATER. NOT TONIGHT...

...I HAVE A SPLITTING HEADACHE!



NEGGAN MAY NOT BE INTERESTED IN ANSWERS RIGHT NOW, BUT I CERTAINLY AM!

WHAT KIND OF GAME WERE YOU PLAYING, MERLIN?

WAS IT NECESSARY TO DECEIVE US--

--TO DECEIVE ME?

WASN'T THERE ALREADY ENOUGH FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT?

LIKE...

...MICKY... ALL THAT GUILTY THE WAY I FIRST MET NEGGAN-- ALL THAT HAPPENED WHEN I RETURNED TO EARTH SHORTLY BEFORE THE FORMATION OF EXCALIBUR.

IT'S ALL COME BACK TO ME... OLD WOUNDS REOPENED, NEW WOUNDS REALIZED.

WHY WEREN'T YOU THERE TO HELP ME, MERLIN?

YOUR WORDS ARE HARSH... BUT NOT HEARTFELT.

PERHAPS IT IS BECAUSE YOU KNOW I AM, AS EVER, YOUR FRIEND!

PERHAPS IT IS BECAUSE YOU KNOW THE VERY FABRICS OF REALITY HAVE BEEN STRETCHED TO THEIR LIMITS!

PERHAPS IT IS BECAUSE YOU KNOW THIS IS, IN FACT, LITTLE MORE THAN A TEST-- AND THAT THE TRUE OBSTACLES IN YOUR LIFE ARE YET TO COME.

IS IT SO SURPRISING TO YOU THAT SOME OF MY ACTIONS ARE ALWAYS GOING TO BE BEYOND YOUR COMPREHENSION?



HASN'T THAT ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE?

YOUR LIFE-- OUR LIVES-- CANNOT BE TREATED AS IF ORDINARY.

CAPTAIN BRITAIN...
AND MEGGAN... AREN'T THE
ONLY ONES WHO COULD USE
A FEW ANSWERS.

ALL RIGHT,
BUT JUST
REMEMBER...

...YOU
ASKED FOR
IT!

I'M SORRY
YOU FEEL I WAS
NOT HONEST
WITH YOU.

IF YOU HAD
KNOWN I HAD **NOT**
REALLY DIED... BUT
RATHER ALTERED MY BODY
AND SENT IT HERE TO AWAIT
THESE **UNWARRANTED**
OCCURRENCES...
WOULD YOU TRULY
HAVE BELIEVED?

WOULD
YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO
COMPREHEND?

NO MAN IS
ABLE TO UNDERSTAND
ALL.

STILL, **ALL MUST TRY**. ALL MUST LEARN THROUGH THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES--
THEIR OWN **FATES!**

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED
WHY EXCALIBUR WAS
TRULY BROUGHT INTO
BEING?

JUST AS THE
CHANGELING TOOK AD-
VANTAGE OF THE SPECIAL
MYSTIC **UNCERTAINTY** THEY
CREATED ON THIS WORLD RE-
CENTLY WHEN THE **DARK**
HOLD--THE MOST
POWERFUL THING TO
EXIST WITHIN THIS
REALITY--WAS
RECREATED--

THERE ARE
OTHER, SIMILAR
FORCES--AND OTHER
TRIALS AHEAD!

PROCTOR STRANGE M.B.

YOU, CAPTAIN BRITAIN--
AND LIKEWISE EXCALIBUR
--ARE AN **INHERENT**
COMPONENT OF ALL
THAT HAS TRANSPIRED.

"THERE IS A NATURAL ORDER TO THINGS."

"THERE ARE THINGS REALITY WILL
NOT **TOLERATE!**"

"THERE CAN BE NO BREAKDOWN OF THE
LAWS OF LIFE AND DEATH."

YOU SEE WHY IT IS
ALWAYS SO **DIFFICULT**
TO EXPLAIN--

--SO **DIFFICULT** TO
UNDERSTAND.

... AND CAPTAIN BRITAIN
STANDS ALONE...

... **UNITED**
AGAIN!

ALL THAT
YOU HAVE
EXPERIENCED CAN
BE EXPLAINED IN
THE WORDS OF MY
DAUGHTER, ROWANA,
WHO HAS FULFILLED
MY DUTY AS **PRO-**
TECTOR OF THE
MULTIVERSE.
WHILE I POSED AS
MYRD AND AWAITED
THESE **ONE-**
ORDAINED
EVENTS.

BUT... **SUDDENLY**--
MERLIN--AND HIS
CASTLE--SEEM TO
RAISE WITHIN THE
EYE OF A STORM...

NO OTHER WORDS
ARE SPOKEN.

NO OTHER WORDS ARE NEEDED.

THE MIND ITSELF--
OR IS IT HERE--
THE WIND-- SEEMS
TO SPEAK OUT LOUD.

AND AS WELL IT WOULD
BE-- EXALBUR WILL
ALWAYS BE THERE...

...TO ANSWER
ITS CALL.